

### **The First "Populist Caucus"**

In February of 1983, a group of 14 Midwest Democratic members of Congress founded the first known "Populist Caucus" with the goal to "fight for such economic goals as fairer taxes, lower interest rates and cheaper energy."

The original Populist Caucus was chaired by then-Rep. Tom Harkin (D-IA). The other members in the caucus were Berkley Bedell (D-IA); Lane Evans (D-IL); Tom Daschle (D-SD); Al Gore (D-TN); Timothy Penny (D-MN); Jim Weaver (D-OR); Byron Dorgan (D-ND); Harold Volkmer (D-MO); James Oberstar (D-MN); Bob Wise (D-WV); Frank McCloskey (D-IN); Bill Richardson (D-NM); Gerry Sikorski (D-MN); and Mike Synar (D-OK).

The first Populist Caucus dissolved by the mid-1990's.

In January 2009, Rep. Braley founded a new Populist Caucus with the same underlying message: to bring people together to fight for middle class economic issues.